& little to gain in its results & it therefore becomes of very little consequence to me whether it is published or not except for the credit of the country - You have thrown yourself & Dr. Gray both in a false position, what your ends are is not readily seen though they may be imagined - I care not what they are, I have taken some pains to explain matters to you & end with being surprised that you have misrepresented the views of the Library Committee & my own to others if you are now dissatisfied with the work, you can abandon it under the terms fully expressed in my letter of the 23rd. Decr. but if you & Dr. Gray desire to continue in the work you must make up your minds to conform to the views expressed in my letter of the above date - Requesting you will send a copy of my former letter & this to Dr. Gray as an answer to his sentiments expressed in his letter to you, I am very respectfy

Your obedt. servt.

(Signed) Charles Wilkes

Copy of the letter forwarded by Dr. Torrey as a "copy of a letter recd from Capt. Ch. Wilkes March 16th. 1857"

Dr. John Torrey.

Dr. Sir/ I have been shewn a letter from Dr. Gray to yourself, by Mr. Brackenridge, at your request, & say that I have been surprised at its contents would be too weak an expression - What you have written to Dr. Gray I can only surmise from that letter, but I plainly perceive that you have mis-stated my views & that of the Committee altogether - Upon the whole I therefore take issue with you, & on a part of Dr. Gray's letter with him - Misstatements of any kind are always calculated to mislead, & this - I look upon as more unpardonable in you as you have had the views of the Library Committee expressed through me sometime since, & judging from the date of this letter to you, 3½ years ample time was allowed to correct any errors either he or you could have fallen into relative

to the intentions & views of the Libry Committee as expressed in my letter of 23 Dec. to which you have not favored me with a reply—

I now distinctly state that with the printing & typographical details of the publication neither you nor Dr. Gray nor any one else than those charged with it by the Libry Committee have anything to do— long before either of you had anything to do with the work this was settled by fully as competent & perhaps more experienced gentlemen than yourselves in these matters, & no interference will be allowed or any alteration permitted unless with the sanction of those who have charge of the publication—

Dr. Gray could not have misunderstood me on these matters for I never had it in my power to alter what had been fixed & was considered by me as fixed from the beginning—

There has been no intention expressed or entertained of "tying up" the reports on different branches to one "exact" pattern, as to the "mode of citation", it has never been a question, & it is futile for you or Dr. Gray to refer to it The great point is that of the work "not being at all as populum" a work "only to be looked at by botanists & of a strict scientific character" on this I take full issue— as I before wrote you, the Library Committee intend the work for the people & not for any class of scientific men & I am truly surprised that Dr. Gray should venture at this day to express such an obsolete notion, the country has & is expending large sums to spread this very information, & can he or you suppose they intend to lock it up to a few who happen to have made this branch of science a study, & that they alone should be benefitted by it— I may at once tell you that if I thought this was the intention of any one I would never sign my name to another bill for a dollar, & I would do everything in my power to upturn such antiquated & anti American notions— Dr. Gray & you deceive yourselves if you suppose the notions of the Library Com. of Congress & the people of the country are so contracted— or to make use of Dr. Gray's own expression "so silly". My letter of the 23rd. Dec. fully gives you the views & intentions of the Library Committee & they are what every man of sense & science will approve of throughout the country— and unless I have assurances that they will be conformed to I shall deem it my duty to decline any further approval of bills for the Botanical Department—

In conclusion I have to state that both you & Dr. Gray must be aware that I have but a general [interest?] in the Botanical Department as connected with the whole results of the Expedition that consequently I can have nothing to lose

Answer to Capt. Wilkes letter to Dr. Torrey, March 16. 1854 ——

usages & forms; but a private citizen, charged by a compact with the production of a certain scientific work.) - I mention the fact (~~is that I have not seen the letter~~ but it is important in another respect) for ~~because~~ I am willing to suppose, (as Capt. Wilkes ~~& Dr Torrey~~ discourteously ~~& wrongly~~ asserts, & ~~Dr. Torrey~~) not that Dr T. has "misstated" & "misrepresented" the matters in question ~~to me~~ in each preceding in his own honest understanding, but that the parties may have in a great degree misunderstood each other, a thing by no means unlikely to happen in any letter to Dr. Torrey of the 31 Jany. was solely based upon what he had written to me, & it certainly gave me the impression that there had been an unnecessary ~~& which statements did appear to me to indicate a rambling~~, & vexatious interference with details that should have been left, as I supposed they were expressly arranged to be left, to the botanists themselves to determine. ~~& In~~ my reply to Dr. Torrey I accordingly expressed my sentiments in respect to it, ~~as represented to me~~ — Sentiments ~~I may add~~, concurred in by the highest botanical ~~& scientific~~ authority in England in such matters. —

I should add, in view of the unpleasantness in wh. the simple discharge of what I conceived to be my duty has unexpectedly involved me, that I ~~have only further to say that I am~~ saw not desirous to exercise that general oversight

of the whole botanical publication, which I deemed myself ~~supposed to be~~ charged with, & to wh., if I mistake not, a plain reference will be found in the written ~~abstract~~ engagement I act under. It is of no earthly object whatever to me, except as it might tend, as my associates assured me it would, to the greater perfection of the work; & it is solely from my strong desire to render ~~the work as creditable as~~ it creditable in the highest degree to the country, in form & in matter, that I have been led into this unpleasant discussion. Which must first be [illegible]. At least I will take no

I am quite content to be alone responsible, as I must be, in substance & in language, for that large portion of the botanical report which is assigned to me to execute, in respect to which, indeed, I have received no instructions since our written contract was made, & I trust I shall receive none at variance with it.

With respect to the declaration ~~on the part~~ of Capt. Wilkes, of his intention to arrest ~~stopping~~ the materially ~~accrued~~ bills drawn upon the Committee (in compromise with my protest), until I shall give assurances of conforming to "views & intentions" ~~of this instructions~~ "to me either unknown, or as Capt. Wilkes intimates, misrepresented, I will allow me to remark, ~~have only to say~~, that should the Library Committee take the responsibility ~~in it~~ of arresting ~~in this or in any other way~~ my portion of the Botanical work, I shall naturally regret the throwing away of so much labor & research, & the loss of the opportunity of contributing, in this particular way ~~manner~~ to the advancement of American science; & ~~so far as I am~~ but personally concerned I shall have no reason to regret it. ~~As to the present aspect of affairs, I cannot fail to prove a very great relief to me~~

I have the honour to be, with great respect

Very truly Yours,

(Signed) Asa Gray

P.S. My address for the present is to the care of Messrs. Brown Shipley & Co.

Liverpool

zoological portions already printed or printing, as closely conforming to them, perhaps, as Botanical matter can well be made to conform to Zoological - This, I have reason to suppose, was perfectly satisfactory to all the parties concerned, & it is from petty & needless interference and in doing it, I supposed I was only attending to what was required of me, & I could have no conceivable end in view but that of contributing to the greater perfection of the Botanical work as a whole, by guarding against blemishes & discrepancies that are otherwise sure to occur - Now unless I have misunderstood, through second-hand communications (as Capt. Wilkes intimates) it is from needless & petty interference, - as I cannot but consider it from my understanding of the case, - on the part of Capt. Wilkes since I left the country, that all this very unpleasant controversy with Dr. Torrey, & indirectly with myself, has arisen -

[illegible] my name by any unnecessary appearance with the entire paper which I am engaged - (I fear it is necessary for me to beg you to apprize Capt. Wilkes, that I am not a clerk or petty officer under his command, subject to naval

To the Hon. the Chairman
of the Library Committee
of Congress

Kew near London, April 2. 61.

Dear Sir,

I send enclosed a copy of a letter of Capt. Wilkes to Dr. Torrey, communicated to me by request of Capt. Wilkes. As I am only incidentally concerned in it, & indirectly & perhaps imperfectly acquainted with the circumstances

As I am only incidentally concerned in it, indirectly & perhaps imperfectly acquainted with the circumstances which have led Capt. Wilkes to write to a gentleman of so high standing & character in so extraordinary a tone, I only feel called upon to offer to you such brief explanations as may be requisite to place these matters upon a proper footing, so far as I have become involved in them, & which the manner as well as the form of the letter of Capt. Wilkes precludes my addressing to him

I may first be allowed to say that I became engaged in the duty of preparing the Botanical account of the collections made by the U.S. Expl. Exped. (excepting the portions previously assigned to other individuals) at the solicitation of Capt. Wilkes, made first through my friend Mrs. Sullivant, & afterwards personally to me - that I undertook

zoological portions already printed or

I should state, however, that I have not yet seen Capt. Wilkes letter to Dr. Torrey of Dec. 23rd. the latter having by some inadvertence omitted to send me a copy of it, as Capt. Wilkes desires at the close of the letter, the copy of which is herewith returned. This is of no consequence in the point of view in which Capt. Wilkes puts it at the close of his letter; for it is not proper that I should be governed by instructions addressed to another person; ~~nor do I consider~~ myself bound by any instructions at variance with those contract under which I am engaged. (I fear it is necessary for me to beg you to impress Capt. Wilkes, that I am not a clerk or petty officer under his command, subject to naval

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at no small personal inconvenience,
the task solely from a sense of duty
to the science I cultivate & to the country,
which, under the circumstances would
not allow me to refuse it, although it
obliged thereby to interrupt other scientific
undertakings which would most fully
occupy all my best working years, render
it necessary to provide a substitute
to discharge part of the duties of my pro-
fessorship at Cambridge, & to reside for some
time abroad, where alone the necessary
facilities for the proper performance of
this duty could be obtained:— and that
for this I purposely named a sum which was
Capt. Wilkes at once accepted) as my remuneration,
which I felt would show that I was not
induced by considerations of pecuniary
gain to undertake this onerous task.

I am now diligently occupied in the performance
of this duty simply under the terms of a
written contract, to which I am con-
strained to appeal as (Mr. Sullivant being
absent in Europe) by

as much as
duties & obligations, because various under-
standings & details, arranged in conversation
between Capt. Wilkes & myself, as I under-
stood them, and recollect now appear to be forgotten
or differently understood by Capt. Wilkes. Of these verbal
arrangements that which has led most unpleasantly
directly to my part, to this correspondence, is that I agreed to take
a general supervision of the whole
botanical matter, so far as to arrange
with the other botanists concerned the
particular literary model & details, so as to secure
a sufficient uniformity in the various
parts of the botanical reports, and I was to
revise the MSS. with this view. I under-
stood also that it was desired that I
should look over the proof sheets of the whole
— Accordingly & at Mr. Sullivant's request,
I proceeded to arrange some of these details with Dr.
Torrey & Mr. Brakenridge, adopting a form
essentially agreeing with the technical

where we can have no private interests to subserve) are entitled to consideration. Two other modes suggest themselves – viz.

1. To omit the Latin character – This would maintain perfectly the popular form of the work; & it presents no insuperable obstacle to the foreign naturalist. For the technical English of Botanical Terminology (in wh. diagnostic characters must be written) is so closely moulded upon the Latin fr. which it was derived that the French or German botanist will have little difficulty in making them out, – not so much as he will necessarily meet with in the critical remarks (usually the most important to him of all) wh. will in any case be in English, & where he will miss the technical form of expression. Besides these characters (being brief) will be immediately translated into Latin, & appear in the yearly summaries of new Genera & Species, & in the systematic works, & so be in all scientific hands – I am perfectly willing to adopt that plan, if it be thought proper. The Flora of North America, as a scientific work as I know of, is so written, & I have not found that its English dress has presented any perceptible obstacle to the incorporation of its results with the science of the age: though it doubtless would have been deemed more convenient, on the Continent, to have it in Latin.

I have no "whim" which "desires the publication to appear more scientifici ~~in Latin~~ by being edited in Latin, at the sacrifice of its usefulness at large," as Capt. Wilkes asserts. – or, –

2d. To omit the English translation of the diagnostic characters, letting the detailed English description take its place, & fulfil all its offices, while it fulfills them as well: taking care that it contains all that is in the Latin; so that the English account is perfect in itself.

This is what I proposed, & have acted on, – as the simplest mode of making the plan of Mr. Dana's Volume conformable to the additional requirement (that of a detailed description), – as the one in which Dr. Gould, having descriptive matter to give, had naturally & almost necessarily fallen, – & as entirely conformable to Mr. Pearce's statement of the views of the Com^n, as given in the 2nd para-

Copy of a letter from Dr. Gray to Prof. Henry –

Botanic Garden, Cambridge, June 2nd 1852

My dear Prof. Henry,

A copy of a communication from Capt. Wilkes to the Chairman of the Lib. Com., dated April 23, 1852, having been laid before me, I gladly avail myself of your kind permission to recast the statement which I have to make in reply, & to place it if needful, before the Libry. Com., who surely will take no action in the matter, until they learn what answer I have to make to the serious charges against me which it contains –

I trust that my answer will be satisfactory, & that the action of the Com^e, whatever their decision, will put an end to this controversy in which I have unexpectedly become involved –

To put you in possession of the whole data, I send you herewith,

1 – A copy of the Agreement under which I engaged to prepare the Botany of the Exploring Expedition –

2. A copy of a letter from Capt. Wilkes & Dr. Torrey forwarded to me at Capt. W.'s request;

3. A copy of a letter which I addressed to Hon. Mr. Pearce, Chairman of the Libry. Com^e –, on the occasion of receiving the above communication.

4 – A copy of a letter received from Mr. Pearce in reply to mine –

5 – A letter I addressed to Mr. Pearce in acknowledgement of his above communication, expressing my satisfaction with it, & my intention to proceed in the preparation of the Mss. conformable to what I understood to be his views –

These will furnish you with the whole correspondence. I have proceeded as diligently & faithfully as I could, with the work, & have accumulated the requisite

books & material for the purpose— In this, in paying for a substitute to perform part of my College duties, & in the expenses incurred in going to England, Paris, Geneva, &c. & in prosecuting the necessary researches there, I have expended all I have yet received on my contract, viz. $3,240.

On the 1st. January, 1852. viz. "3 years from the 1st. Jany. 1849," I duly notified Mr. Pearce, (having, for various reasons, declined to correspond with Capt. Wilkes), that I was ready to begin printing, & forwarded a portion of my revised Mss. as a specimen.

I must here explain that this is what I proposed & agreed to do, when the arrangement was made at Washington, namely to begin to furnish copy to the printer at that time; I did not expect to have the Mss. completed then. But when I received the draft of agreement from Capt. Wilkes some weeks after, I noticed the form of statement contained in the 4th. paragraph; but did not think it necessary to object formally to it, - as Capt. Wilkes had said that time was of little consequence compared with thoroughness— as I had distinctly stated that the work I undertook was a good 5 years work, & that my accomplishing it sooner would depend upon the amount of assistance I might be able to obtain, - and as I felt confident of being ready as soon as the Committee were ready to print. Nevertheless, having signed the contract as it was presented to me, I must abide by the consequences— My object in this is, the non-fulfilment of terms by the opposite party, by leaving for a whole year unpaid my quarterly bill, drawn while in a foreign land, & since my return—

Now, at the time I undertook this service, I explicitly understood that I was charged with fixing, in conjunction with the other botanists, engaged on some special parts, the particular details of the botanical volumes, so as to render them conformable with each other, & to the other works, as far as the difference of subjects & of mode of treatment properly admitted; & I proceeded so to do, as far as needful, by conference & correspondence before I went abroad— I had no idea that I was stepping out of my province, or interfering with other plans already settled, as such were communicated to me; & had such as Capt. Wilkes has since insisted on in his letter to Dr. Torrey been then made known to me, I surely should have declined to have anything to do with it— Hence my surprise at being informed by Dr. Torrey of the difficulties he was experiencing, from what Capt. Wilkes was commanding him to do: & on my opinion being asked, I expressed myself indignantly on the subject in a letter to Dr. Torrey, & in language which, though willing that my opinions should be made known, I certainly should not have used had I supposed that my private letter to a personal friend (who was wronged, as I thought) would have been laid before a Congressional Committee—

But enough of all this. Let us come to the objection brought by Capt. Wilkes, in his communication to Mr. Pearce, of April 23d. 1852, against the specimen of my Mss. referred to him, viz. that it is a great departure from the plan of publication established by the Committee, &c.

Now, with all deference, I conceive that it is not such a departure; & that the case is one that the Committee have not yet decided—

In Mr. Dana's volume on the Corals, there is first a diagnostic character in Latin; then the same in English; & an detailed description of this plan (being a general monograph of the family, from all sources) not requiring the latter—

But the Botany requires not only diagnostic characters of the new & little understood species, but also detailed descriptions of each. What plan shall be adopted in this case, to meet all the requirements? I understand that proposed by Capt. Wilkes to require, 1st. the Character in Botanical Latin; 2d. the same in Botanical English: 3rd. the detailed description, which must necessarily contain all that has been given twice before. My objections to this are already given sufficiently in my letter to Mr. Pearce, April 2nd. 1852— I cannot but think that my studies & my familiarity with botanical literature should give my opinion, & that of Dr. Torrey, some weight, & that our strong objections (on a matter

graph of his letter, a copy of which (marked No 4) is annexed. As a rule must be established for this case, as it will be no greater departure than is that suggested & attempted to be enforced by Capt. Wilkes from that of Dana's volume, & as it appears from your letter to commend itself to you, may I not ask You to use Your proper influence to have it adopted by the Com. for the Botanical portion? It cannot be said to render the work more technical or more Latin than Capt. Wilkes' proposed plan, there would be just the same Latin in either case —

To the objection that "the incorporation of the English diagnosis with the detailed description will make the work less clear & useful to the public," I do not think that it could practically have such an effect. There is to be sure a convenience in having a concise expression of the important characters before the eye. But the Botanical Latin phrase does just as well for this, to all who can possibly use the work at all, as would its Botanical English repetition. I do not believe that the person lives who can understand, & will have occasion to read or use, the English botanical descriptions of such a work, who will not comprehend the Latin phrase just as well as he will its technical translation underneath it — If there be such, it must be a rare case indeed, & one to whom the trouble of running through the whole English description to get at its most essential points will be little hardship. Better have, if you please, this possible inconvenience in the rarest possible case, than commit a repetition which I must call in matched taste, & swell the volumes, without adding to their value, by about 500 pages of entirely superfluous printing. It is not unlikely that Capt. Wilkes confounds the difficulty of writing Latin botanical characters with that of reading them, — a different thing. Mess. Rich & Mr. Brackenridge would not be able to write Latin characters, no doubt: but they can read them very well. Indeed Mr. B. could not have prepared his report otherwise, as, with two partial exceptions, all the works he had to consult were written either all in Latin, or with Latin characters —

I am sorry to have to dwell on these matters, over & over. Why should not the Botanists be allowed to write their Botany without being tied up to this one absolute formula. And when that formula has to be modified to suit the exigencies of the case, why should the particular mode of doing so be prescribed by one who does not pretend to be a botanist or a naturalist, against the views & wishes of those who are? I cannot but think that the delay, & cost would be saved if more discretion were allowed to the individuals that you think fit to employ to do the work, & who feel a responsibility to the Scientific world for the manner in which they do it.

It is no disparagement to Capt. Wilkes that we do not consider him as well qualified to decide this class of questions. But there are other points in his communication to Mr. Pearce, which are to me most unexpected & surprising.

It is objected to pass my accounts because I have been engaged in preparing a paper for the Smithsonian Institution, which, says Capt. Wilkes, "I did in no way interfere with his contract; the amount to be paid him was based, & rested on the express condition that his whole time was to be given to the work of preparation."

In answer to this I refer you to the copy of the contract, herewith answered (No. 1) If it be said this was included in the verbal arrangement, I reply that so far from this, when I was asked to undertake this work, I distinctly stated that the various works I was engaged with must go on, with more or less rapidity, & that only a part of my college duties could be performed by proxy. Of course there is no testimony of this conversation. But let me ask if it was supposed that I was expected for 5 years (the time I said it would take) or even for 3, to abandon my other scientific undertakings, to give up my salary from Harvard College, which is larger than the generally [illegible] received from the U. S., & assume my self the whole expense of a voyage to Europe & back, & a long residence there at my own charges, & all for $440. per annum for 5 years!

To the remaining charge that I have failed to fulfil my contract by declining the correction & revision of Mss. & proof-sheets of the other botanical portions. I have only to say, that, as my preceding remarks will show, I took even a broader view of my duties in this respect, & have never refused to perform them; — that not a particle of Mss. or proofs has ever been sent, or offered to be sent to me for revision or correction; & that my verbal request or such, made to Mr Dwight, & my letter from Europe, which I presume was communicated to Capt. Wilkes, has not been responded to.

Nor have I "thrown impediments in the way of the publication," as Capt. Wilkes asserts. I have only when asked, expressed the opinion that the particular plan prescribed by Capt. Wilkes for the Botanists to follow did not meet my approbation; & have asked, as I still do, that it may not be adopted.

I trust I have now answered all the charges in Capt. Wilkes' letter to Mr. Pearce. I have done it unofficially to yourself, as my friend. And I beg you to read over this statement to Mr. Pearce.

If Mr. Pearce should think proper to send me an official copy of Capt. Wilkes communication, I will make an official reply to it, embodying substantially what I have here said, if you approve it.

If it was my letter to Mr. Pearce of April 2. 1857 (No. 3) of which you speak, as being too warmly written, I beg you will read over Capt. Wilkes communication in it replied to, & see if you do not find it in some measure

Believe me to remain, ever

Yours Sincerely Gould.

Washington City
2d Jan 1856

My dear Sir,

The day you received your letter
Mr Shaw was called home by the sickness of his
lady and knew not on his mind when you
answer for the delay in this answer. As it will
be necessary for me to have him in Study I
not on him began I go to Stuyvesant with you
about the agreement I sent you, which you
seem to think was unnecessary between you the
Govt: this I think you will on reflection be satisfied
is a mistake, it is for your advantage & security
that it was drawn up and signed before entering
upon the Govt. I made it in such a manner as
to conform to our conversation. and it was your own
fault if you did not convey fully your intention
in the granting payment you desired to have
I now understand it to be your wish to receive
besides this amount, a second for any portion of the work that
may be completed by others on your certificate
that such

Dr Asa Gray
Cambridge

that such part has been completed and is a part of the whole (as the case maybe) contained for by you then is no difficulty in this situation & it will be embraced in the new agreement to be sent you

Respecting the drawings by Mr. Sprague and others Mr. Drayton having the superintendance of the whole instructions if cannot be heard from this week & he must be the judge of the worth of the drawings as to pay of you can & must be satisfied that both drawings & engravings are correct, & they will be made so, but we cannot consent to pay an item in the price for which the work is to be done from this would be an entire departure from our rule, and as it is there are some objections to the employment of Mr. Sprague in this way which it is not deemed necessary here to mention, it is unusual and we think may lead to difficulty, for artists are difficult persons to deal with as I know any person on both sides of the water as we have avoided to your wishes & towards for the employment of Mr. Sprague we are not disposed to retract from it; but the fees to the [illegible] engravers must be determined by a person fully competent to the task, such as Mr. Drayton is who was known this value. The Govt. in all such arrangements always provides for its own security & to avoid disputes. Now if you were also a party & disagreed with Mr. Drayton who would settle the difference, and if no name should be inserted it would become necessary to insert mine also and I can only tell you that I should prefer Mr. Drayton's judgement to my own & decide with him so that Mr. should be no better off - Mr. Drayton will entrust to the prints on the Bill indeed & being conversant with such work for these last twenty years he is nothing to fear in Europe.

Now thought it necessary to enter thus particularly into this, being satisfied you will see the force of the argument and that it is not prejudice for fear the work to be done in another way, besides it is the usage here -

Presuming there will be no further difficulty I will direct Mr. Buckminster to pay forward the Competition to you with subsequent to Mr. Sprague -

I am

Dear Sir Yours

Obedt. Servt.

Dr. Thos. Jefferson

Monticello

Va.

P.S. I have a letter from Prof. Bailey mentioning the subject of the design he has to send them to Mr.

Henry - I stood by you when you made your visit here this time was an obligation on me owing to the inscriptions by foreigners standing to friends abroad I wrote Prof. Briggs I would mention the subject to you and that you through this difficulty could be obviated. Now the proofs stand for you to correct with this the run down where you arrange (round) thirds can be made.

Your amount is in train for the liquidation of Mrs Pearce & Thos may soon be obtained by

Yours Truly
James Addison

D. Gray
Cambridge

Cincinnati, 1...

Your note of the
27th Sept. reached me
a day or two since, I
desire to return my
sincere sympathy with
you in your kind sympathy.

Your M. installment
will be duly attended to

Yours

Asa Gray Esq.

Cambridge

[illegible] to forward
[illegible] Mr. [illegible]
[illegible] reach me at least
[illegible] by the 25th inst.
as soon as I reach home
[illegible] I will attend to
your request relative
to Sandringham
[illegible] it will however
be necessary for me

to consult Mr Pearce before
doing so which may occupy
[illegible] more time than you
anticipate, as he may not
be at home & my letters
fail to reach me.
Please my kind regards
to Mrs Young & believe me

[illegible]

Yours most truly
Edward Watkin.

N York 6th Oct. /68.

Washington City
24th April 1849

My dear Sir

The situation of Public Printer is to become vacant and we are desirous of securing the place to Mr. Buckminster whom you know to be better adapted for it than anyone else. I need not say to you that we may be of to the Botany of the country in enlarging the exotics as well as indigenous plants that our fine field is open to beautify and ornament the public grounds what can we should be in this city, the thousands of dollars that are now thrown away can be devoted to this object under our direction. Knowing something about the care and attention to be given to them, I pray you will write a strong letter to Mr. Ewing the Secretary of the Interior and urge others to do so whom you may know. Under this appeal to you as I must know the great interest you take in the cultivation of plants &c &c. I trust you will write Mr. Ewing a letter urging

to me will meet with attention I assure you
and how it might be if it came as soon as possible
I have intended writing you respecting the contents
but Mr Pearson the chairman of our Committee has
not been able to find them and I have forgotten the
wording of the original with limitations you know
as to and if you can supply this we can make
it out and please you as much as possible
respecting it. Present my kind regards to
Mrs Gray and believe me sincerely &c

Yours faithfully
Charles Wicksteed.

Rev.

Asa Gray Esqr
Cambridge
Mass.

Wilmington Del
20th Dec. 1849.

My dear Sir.

I thank you for the information of the Commencement of the 49th year to which the Progress you have been enabled to make in your studies connected with the U.S.A.

I regretted you should have given your letter to the carrier, the postage money was very distinctly, it has been returned me and I now trust you will have forwarded them again so that you may receive the amt. due you with the accustomed quarterly day.

With my best respects to Mrs Farquhar
believe me ever with high regard

Yours faithfully
Charles Wilcox.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge. Mass.

Washington City
3d April 50.

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the 29th ult. was duly received.

I do not consider it necessary for any application to be made to the Commissioner upon the subject to which you refer as the period for your retiring on your Bounty —

Mr Buchanan is not aware of the description of Plants you may desire to take with you. He would think that for you it would be necessary for you to have an Order upon him if you prefer such as you desire to receive from him, it will require but a short time to get them up after you have made your selection.

I am pleased to hear that you will have all the facilities you desire to examine foreign Collections, abroad

they take for some interest in these matters from this, do at home. It is only to be answered for and I regret to any longer engagement against us.

Please my kind regards to Mrs Young & believe me very truly yours

Yours respectfully
Rom. Ives
Edmund Wilcox.

Rev. Asa Young.
Canandaigua
N.Y.

My dear Sir.

I have finally got back to Washington after nearly days detention at New York. - Happy to be pleased to state that the Committee will be satisfied with the proposed changes in the printing of your Mss. believing it will obviate all difficulty by making it quite intelligible to the English reader. You will therefore have the kindness to mark for italics the words giving the diagnosis in the English descriptions as understood by

- Yours &c

Prof. Asa Gray.
Cambridge.

- town on, the portion of Mrs. which you
must to the Hon: Chairman of this Committee
Com: is herewith returned for this purpose
that the proceedings in relation to it obtained as
soon as convenient -

In consultation with Mr Jan. Your instruc-
tions which have reached) will be prepared as they stand* The one for
copying Dr Pickering's notes to the Amount
You state will be prepared please to forward it
with the remaining Vouchers with Your sign-
ature by mistake - Should better
late for this.

I have great pleasure in approving for the
Drawings of Mr Sprague on very much
approved of with respect & esteem

Dear Sir your obed
Charles Wilkes.

* there is one wanting viz Bill of
Brown Shipley & Co. please to add
it to Your list as the ant. comm-
pays notice it is furnished & I
did not think it worth while to
retain the others till next month.

Washington April 23 1852

My Dear Sir

Agreeably to your request I now state in writing what I said to you yesterday.

I have carefully looked over the papers which you handed from Dr Gray, viz; a few pages of his Mss, his accounts, some vouchers and his accompanying letter.

The first is so great a departure from the publication of the Exploring Expedition established by the Committee that I feel it a duty to call your attention particularly to it, as being at variance with the original design of the publication, intended for the benefit of the public generally — I am aware that Dr Gray has written in his postscript "that he has taken care that the Latin specific characters shall all be substantially and fully repeated in the detailed English descriptions, so that all the information given is patent to the reader of English only" but with all due respect for the assertion of Dr Gray, I am satisfied that such is not the case, as any one who will examine the Mss. carefully will perceive. The incorporation of the English diagnosis with the general and detailed descriptions, instead of

being kept distinct (as has been thus far the case) will make the work less clear and useful to the public. The plan thus far has been that the reports should be written in English and a Latin translation given of the diagnosis which was directed and has been printed in Italics; this was only deemed necessary because the Government publication was intended to be presented to foreign governments, where English might not be read, but where Latin was still the language of science.

As respects the accounts submitted by Dr Gray, they must be expressly authorized by the Committee. I do not conceive that I have the power to pass them, nor can I recommend them for the approval of the Committee. Dr Gray's letter states that he has been engaged on a paper for the Smithsonian Institution for a period of three months putting aside the work of the Exploring Expedition which I hold to be at variance with his contract; the amount to be paid him was predicated on the express condition that his whole time was to be given to the work of preparation, He says he makes no charge for services within this period, but nevertheless the time has been lost in the publication and if permitted will leave the whole to be indefinitely extended, under similar pleas. The case of Dr Pickering is somewhat similar to this.

Moreover Dr Gray has failed to fulfil his contract with the Committee in other respects, he took upon himself the correction and proof reading of the other portions of the Botany, this he has declined to do and with Dr Torrey has thrown many impediments in the way of the publication of Mr Breckenridge's part because the plan of publication adopted by the Committee did not meet their views; there was a clear understanding with both relative to the form of publication adopted by the Committee and until Dr Gray sees fit to conform to the contract, I cannot certify to any bill for the payment of money to him.

The papers are herewith returned to you, at present, I have nothing further to say upon the subject. I have no desire to use any influence with the Committee by urging objections all I have to remark is that if they are determined to depart from the plan and course they have laid down for me to carry out the publication I cannot consent to act in the business for them. I do however trust that the beauty and uniformity of the publications which has thus far advanced through many difficulties & elicited the praise of all may not be interrupted or

changed to meet the whims of those who may desire the publication to appear more scientific by being edited in Latin, at the sacrifice of its usefulness at large — I have consulted very many scientific gentlemen who are conversant with the subject — who all agree in thinking that the form originally adopted by the Committee is the best and that it ought to be adhered to, and cannot be improved.

I am very respectfully
Your Obed. Servant
Signed Charles Wilkes

Hon James A. Pearce
Senate U.S.
Chairm. Joint Com. on the Library

wrote private business.

Washington May 23d 1852

My Dear Sir

I am informed confidentially that Capt Wilkes has refused to certify your account to the Library committee and that the reasons he assigns for the refusal are the following;

1 That you have disregarded the prescribed directions of the committee as to the translation of the specific characteristics from the latin into english.

2 That you have devoted a portion of time to the preparation of a posthumous memoir which, according to contract, ought to have been given to the work of the exploring expedition.

3 That you have not fulfilled your engagement in editing the other parts of the botany

I communicate Capt Wilkes's conclusions in his words and on the

of the Exhibition. I give you the heads very briefly; the Peace will send you a copy of the Cabul letter as soon as he can get time to write to you. He has been confined at home for a number of weeks.

I have endeavoured to answer the first of these charges by showing - that the Latin descriptions are intended for the botanist; that no translation can make them blame to him - that a literal translation would be ridiculous - that you have in reality given a translation of the whole in the detailed descriptions - that in fact Cabul. W. has allowed one volume to be printed without a literal translation and that too on a subject of which the nomenclature is much less precise than that of botany. I have presented the Peace with a few bare of the proofs of Gould's book to substantiate the last assertion.

I posted myself up on the subject last summer on my way from Cincinnati and convinced myself that Dr. Torrey and yourself are right notwithstanding Capt. Sy asserts that several naturalists coincide with him in opinion. The remarks made by the Capt that the books were intended for the public and therefore every thing in them ought

Give my kind regards to Mrs Gray and to Asa Gray. Must I assume very truly your friend? Joseph Hooker

to be given in ordinary language is ridiculous. The results of science may in ~~some cases~~ sometimes be given in ordinary language but not the details or the processes.

In your answer to Mr Rame treat the subject coolly and give Capt. W. no opportunity of an advantage on account of language. The letter of last year which was submitted to the committee ought not to have been sent and I presume was not intended by you to meet the eyes of the committee.

I do not wish to appear to volunteer in this matter but if you will request me by letter to ask for you I will do so with much pleasure. Give Mr Rame a full but discriminate refutation of Wilke's assertions and

Send me an answer. Mr Jones' letter to me on this and other matters

Washington May
27th 1852

My Dear Dr

Accompanying
this note I send you a letter
which I wrote several days
ago but which I concluded
not to mail until I could
again see Mr. Pearce. I
have since procured a copy
of the letter of Capt. Wm.
and have requested Mr. P.
not to present the original to
the committee until I can
hear from you.

I have thought that the
best course will be for you
to write me a letter requesting
inquiring as to the cause of the
long delay in hearing from Salem

thus authorized I will call on Cabt. W. and also on Mr P. if it be necessary and endeavour to convince the former of the impropriety of his course. If he cannot be influenced in this way Mr. P. will send you an official copy of the letter and the matter will then be brought before the committee.

If you wish me to act for you please put me in possession of all the facts and though I do not wish to engage in a quarrel I will defend you manfully if I can or forcibly if I must.

If you do not think fit to act on these suggestions I must beg that you will destroy these letters and not mention that I have written to you on the subject. I make this request not on my own account but on that of another.

I remain as ever
your friend &c
Joseph Henry

Dr. A. Gray

Washington June 16th 1852

My Dear Dr

I have seen Mr Bowen several times and have had an interview with Capt Wilkes on the subject of your accounts. Mr B. is well disposed towards you but would be glad if an amicable adjustment of the difficulties between Capt. W. and yourself could be effected without an appeal to the committee and perhaps an exposition of the matter before congress.

Capt Wilkes declares that he has no ill feeling towards Dr. Torrey or yourself that after he had written the letter to Dr. T. he went to Princeton with the hope of an amicable adjustment of the difficulties though he thinks he has not been treated officially in a proper manner. I am clearly of opinion, and shall maintain this before the Committee, if necessary that you are right as to the method

Capt Wilkes course is wrong and our Lawyer I will write you with his opinion as to the course if you desire as to objections to my going to the meeting to-day I will go

of publishing the Report on botany but from what I can learn from Mr Pearce as well as from Capt. Wilkes I think you have fallen into an error of form in not sending officially your accounts to Capt Wilkes. He is the official agent of the library committee in paying on all accounts relative to the business of the exploring expedition and of course your accounts must pass through his hands before it can be acted on by the committee. If he reports against your account or refuses to approve it then you must appeal to the committee but to pass over him and to present your communications immediately to the committee is the highest indignity which could be offered to a naval gentleman. The Capt declares however that he has no feelings on this point though I have no doubt that if you place yourself in a false position with regard to him he will not be disposed to waive any advantage this may give him. I think he is now somewhat anxious to have the work finished as soon as possible and that he would abandon his position as to the method of publication could he do so with consistency. The matter has not been brought before the committee and the Capt has not therefore publically committed himself on the subject and may perhaps be brought to terms provided you retrace one of your steps and present the account officially to Capt W. That you ought to have done so is the opinion of Mr Pearce though he thinks you may have been misled by a remark in one of his letters to you. I would

therefore suggest that you withdraw your account from the Bureau and present it officially and formally to Capt. W. If he refuses to allow it then you must make a formal appeal to the Committee.

In Washington there is considered a wide difference between a personal and an official intercourse. Two persons who may not be on shaking terms when they meet in their private capacity may have frequent official communications.

I think if Capt Wilkes and yourself could have an interview with each other a settlement of the difficulties could be effected and from what I understood him to say I think he would go to New York or Boston to meet you. I think he would rather if possible avoid a discussion before the Committee and I have said to him that it may even be brought before Congress. Write me your determination as soon as possible.

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
June 18th 1852

To the Hon. J. A. Pearce
Chairman of the Joint Library Committee
of Congress.

Dear Sir

My esteemed friend Prof. Henry informs me that I have committed an impropriety in having forwarded my account directly to yourself, as Chairman of the Library Committee, instead of addressing it to Capt. Wilkes, the agent of the Committee. I beg to assure you that I was not aware of the impropriety and that I would not intentionally do any thing improper, and am very desirous to correct it, now that it is kindly pointed out. For this purpose I wish to withdraw said account dated March 20th 1852, as also a former

bill for $365. (included in the above) and sundries by me in June 1851; and I hereby authorize Prof. Henry to receive the same for me.

I have the honor to be
with ~~much~~ high respect
Your Obedient faithful Servant

Asa Gray

Harvard University
Cambridge June 18th 1852.

To Capt. Wilkes, U.S.N.
Agent for the Joint Library Committee of Congress,
&c &c
Dear Sir

I present to you, herewith, for your examination and approval, my account against the Library Committee of Congress, drawn up and vouched for in the accustomed manner.

I am informed that I have committed an official impropriety in having forwarded these ~~documents~~ papers directly to the Chairman of the Committee, instead of to yourself as the agent of the Committee for passing such accounts and transacting other business relative to the Exploring Expedition.

I desire at once to apologize for this inadvertance, which was purely accidental, and arose from my having at the time occasion to write to Mr. Pearce; for I have ever wish to have my accounts presented and audited in other than the usual ~~manner~~ mode.

I have the honor to be, Your Obt. faithful Servant
Asa Gray

Botanic Garden, Cambridge. July 17. 1852.

To Capt. Wilkes, U. S. N.

My Dear Sir

Being out when you called yesterday I regret that I lost the opportunity of seeing you. As I may not have the good fortune to meet you, when I call this afternoon, it will save valuable time, perhaps, if, without waiting for your written statement of objections to pass sundry small items of my account, now before you, I reply to the objections as made in conversation, — trusting that I may remove all doubt from your mind of the propriety and justice of the items in question.

The items objected to are those for freight and carriage on boxes of specimens, the property of the U. S. Exploring Expedition, from Kew and London to Liverpool, and from Liverpool to Boston & Cambridge.

The objection is, if I rightly apprehend it, that, by the Contract, I am to receive a certain specified sum, and no more, for

performing the duties specified in said contract: and I suppose you had inferred that the expenses in question were a part of said duties.

It is true that these items of expense were strictly necessary to be incurred, in order to the fulfilment of said duties. But they are not the duties, nor a part of them, for which the sum named in the contract was the equivalent. The duties are the "describing of all the plants of the Botany of the Expd. not previously contracted for" — — — "also to revise the proofs and superintend the printing not only of my own Mss. but of all the botanical work".

These charges for transportation I understand to come under the same head, as similar charges for transportation between Washington & Cambridge.

It may, however, be said, that the collections once delivered into my hands here, the Library Committee had no intention of being charged for their further conveyance to any place to which I might think it needful to take them.

To this I would reply, that they were so taken abroad under your sanction, in compliance with an original statement of mine that this would be necessary, — that the specimens were by your instructions put into tin packing cases in view of the sea voyage, and directions in respect to the mode of their return were given by you, — showing that the whole was a pre-arranged and understood matter. So that I was, I think, justified in supposing that the expenses of transportation were to be borne by the Committee all the way to England and back, as well as to Cambridge, and on the same grounds.

And as the Committee did sanction and defray the expense of the conveyance of these specimens to England, &c. — I think I was justified in charging them with the expenses of their return from England.

I would not wish, however, to place any improper or doubtful charges in my accounts; and I had no idea that these would be ~~thus~~ so considered. I must, therefore, plead

that a part of these items have already passed without objection and have been paid. If they are wrong, they must not only be struck from the present accounts, but I must refund what has already been paid on similar items.

I feel confident, however, that, on considering that the taking abroad of a large part of the collection was originally contemplated and arranged for, and that they were boxed up with this view, with written directions from you that they should be returned to this country in the same closed tin cases, &c., I may reasonably hope for your decision in favor of defraying the expenses incurred in said transatlantic transportation, on the same principle that warrants your paying for such transportation from Washington to Cambridge and back again.

I remain, Dear Sir

With much respect

Very truly Yours

Asa Gray

Cambridge, Mass.- July 17th 1852

To Capt. Wilkes, U. S. N.

My Dear Sir

On proceeding to work up the Botany of the Exploring Expedition for the printer, I experienced great difficulty from the want of all information taken from the living plants, such as notes about their size, port, & mode of growth, & of the color of flowers, and other points seldom to be ascertained from the dried specimens themselves, and also the particular stations of the plants; the labels attached to the specimens or bundles usually giving only the name of the Island or district where they were gathered.

On application to Dr. Pickering I found that he had kept, with Mr. Brackenridge's aid, a pretty full, and to us invaluable record, of these very points, as respects the botanical collection in almost all of the places visited (after Madeira, Cape Verde Island, & Brazil); and he

kindly lent me the several Mss. volumes containing these among other numerous volumineous records.

As these Mss. volumes could not long be spared by Dr. Pickering, I had no other course but to cause the botanical notes, lists and memoranda requisite to me, to be transcribed by an amanuensis. The greater part of this copying has already been done; and I shall have to pay for it about twenty Dollars.

I would respectfully solicit your permission to forward the bill of the copyist, approved by me, for payment by the Library Committee.

I wished to have laid this Mss. before you when you called here, yesterday; but I was prevented by my unavoidable absence at the time you happened to call. I can send this Mss. to Washington per express, or by mail, under cover to Mr. Pearce, if you desire it.

I have the honor to be
with much respect
Your Obt. faithful servant
Asa Gray

Washington City
14th May 1853.

My dear Sir,

I transmit enclosed
Form B. Proof of the three plates
which I hope you will find satis-
factory. It is unlikely to go into
the press now, therefore my not
time to permit - my doing so. I only
wish that in future we endeavour
will be avoid these mistakes.
It was a mistake your paying
for the bundle by Express, the Packet
-ges and parcels are all charged
one to the Expedition and no bills
are regularly paid.
In your enumeration of the Corps
sita You do not say You were
Scott

copies. Shall be sent it is
finished and will send you with
them sent.

We have had so much difficulty with the training system
that Shaw now arranged
for the experiment to be done before
the police is formed.

I have endeavoured to obtain
you respecting the persons being
permitted from by Lewis. We
have many things to do, and
all requires much systematic
arrangement if it had been
so in this department from
the first we should have
had the trouble we have had &
a large amount of expense would
have been saved.

Yours truly
Edmund Wodehouse

W. Wodehouse Esq
Cambridge

Washington City
23rd Dec. 1856

D. S. P. /

You note was duly received Suppose you had not been informed when you were at the death of Wm. Drayton, which took place on the 5th inst at Philadelphia Intended to write you but found myself so much occupied with the work of the Expedition that Time was not given, this loss to us is very great and Hope we shall be able to accomplish what is to be done, no efforts on my part will be wanting. Shall not get home as soon as I had intended Navy yard and it may require yet two days before I can get things in such order as to undertake

January how we are situated,
I have given my best attention to the
work, and carry it out in the style
it was thought proper. As Dr.
Jones Mr Douglass Smith have failed
him for sometime past and he has
been unable to give that attention
to the progress of the work which such
a work requires, I was partly aware
of it, but not to the extent I find
it. I have yet to visit Philadelphia
when the greater part of his progress and
present Drawings still unknown
Drawings I am not here. I
attach will also claim my particular
attention I understand it is nearly
not quite complete - of it I will in-
form you.

There is one thing I have a question
to in regard to Extension of time
which though not of a great Deal
of consequence, has always claim-
-ed my attention I mean the disposi-
-tion of the drawings at the present matter
two crowded now two open, and to
endeavour to keep them in uniformity
with the whole work, and to have the
lettering on the frames in uniformity
I wrote you that the Commissioners
were that I would have any objection
to building a plan, although it differs
from my own, I have not as
yet been able to see them upon the
subject - written them & until I have
made a full report of the actual condition
of the present state of the work, and yet
I have concluded on the course that
is best to take in expediting the work
to a final termination.

I have written you these few lines
to account for the apparent delay
in attending to your requests

Through you - Very respectfully
Your
Prof. Asa Gray - Cambridge

Washington City
24th January 1857.

Dear Sir.

Your note sent me by Mr. Speer has been received since the death of Mr Drayton. I have by the death of the Comr. assumed his duties and the charge of all the public property. In assuming Mr Drayton's place with the duties which fell upon him was too various and numerous to give them that attention they required; of this however you have been aware by your late note to me. As I am now charged with these duties it will be unnecessary for me your letters on the business of the Ex. Ey. to be addressed to me. In relation this to avoid difficulty and to appoint

- ment. as in no other way can the duties and bearings of the Expedition be considered promptly and efficiently. and as the expenses of the Govt. are thus engaged in the drawings, Engravings, Printing &c. they will not be paid for anything, unless sanctioned by my approval. and thus you will see the necessity of thus keeping through me. when immediate attention will be given them. All the proofs &c. as will be furnished you, and transmitted without delay. but no notice will be taken of those sent to the Engravers, or Printers as belonging to the Public. Shaw put in Sargent's hands the two plates belonging to your Vol. of Atlas, and Hope to see Syon Jones in the course of two weeks. which will complete this Atlas.

I wrote you requesting information respecting your 2nd. part of the Botany Plates and a number of plates engraved in all 8 plates. what Mr. Drayton sent, old Botany plates. Have you any copies of them? and with alterations, can they be used?

Please also inform me whether the Nos. 1. to V. part 2d. is ready & how many drawings & engravings are in hand. and call the important attention to your work that you can give.

Oblige me by an early answer and believe me ever

Yours &c.

Charles Wilkes.

Dr. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Massachusetts

Washington City
20th July 1853.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Massachusetts.

Dear Sir.

I have forwarded through Hon. James A Pearce, the proofs of the three first sheets of the Botany of your unfinished Atlas. Have the kindness to examine them and if needing correction to make it. Oblige me also by lettering the Plates, and references to the parts. so that there may be no delay in finishing them. and beg you to have the writing made so distinct as to avoid any errors being made on the part of the letterer — when completed return them to me here.

Have the kindness, also to answer the enquiries made in my last letter relative to the remaining Part Second of Botany as your earliest convenience.

Very truly & respectfully
Your
Charles Wilkes.

2 30
70

Washington City
2d March
57.

My dear Sir.

Reminded of a letter sent by you in your last between the 28th Jany. I have made search for it and found it among those which were received during my absence to Britain and have accordingly noticed. I have perused it & should not have given you the trouble of this reply, but so many things have required my attention that I scarcely wonder that it escaped my notice at the time of my return. In many points it is satisfactory, but there is one to which I wish more particularly to call your attention = In writing

up the estimates for finishing the publications of the Work of his Excy:
it is my duty that I should be soon to know the cost of the different departments yet to finish, before I can appeal to ask its relative amount of funds, so that an appropriation more in hand may not be exceeded
You will therefore see the necessity I am under to call for the amount of text in Vs 2d Vol. and the number of engravings that the illustration of it may require. and although with every desire on my part to effect the most I find the necessity of urging upon all to confine the expenses within as narrow limits as possible - and to furnish me with the data whereon to calculate and accomplish all that can possibly be effected within our means which the Joint Library Committee have

pledged shall finish the work - so that we cannot look for further aid from Congress - You would therefore oblige me by sending me the number of pages of text which Vol 2d yet may embrace & how many more plates remain to be drawn by Sprague and engraved as soon as the community can -
I have written to Sullivant to the same effect, and if you can give me the estimate of them in the hands of Donn I would be obliged to you. - as it appears that You have a knowledge of how many pages & engravings the Donn can -gain.
I desire to push the Publication to an early completion and let the Committee to see compensation that may be in my power to attain. Respectfully

Your
Charles Wilkes

Prof Agassiz - Cambridge

Washington City
17th March 57

My dear Sir

Your Letter of the 11. has been
thought over and compared with what
you mean it involves and the whole duty
assigned to the amount to be expended. I
am extremely desirous of doing as much for
Indy as I can, but I shall be obliged to keep
the whole within the money and appropri-
-ation - in order to do this it becomes essen-
-tial for me to ascertain what the expenses
are yet to be in the other departments - in
particular those of the Attorney & Post
Office - to whom I have written, and shall
be obliged to wait until I hear from him
before I give You a definite answer
as to how far we can go - You may be
assured it is my desire to extend each branch
to the utmost limits of the Margin.
I think we shall not want any of the Dollars
that have been put to your credit. and I have
adopted & am acting on the rule of having a
contract for the completion of the Engraving
within a certain time. I therefore shall
only depend upon the preparation and

denying them as anything else. I would suggest
proposition for your guidance to finish your letters
proof or type as soon as possible and put into
Sprague's hands all the plants that you deem worthy
to be illustrated for your 2nd Vol. and as soon as
they are completed ten ten or fifteen I would
like them to be forwarded to me - naming &
numbering them to agree with your Text, this work
will move ahead quicker & time and ensure the
proper lettering, and proofs - Before you can ad-
vance far there must be struck to arrange
the plate subjects -

We cannot adopt any other typography,
and shall yet you will find that you can
just slip into our book - but regarding the type of
Dana's which is gorgeous; the expense of binding
us in making an additional vol: has to claim
attention - and as we shall of course have 4 vols
of Botany I suppose that a part of your type
base the addition of Dana, Silliman, Hitch-
cock & Bailey & Tuckerman which would give it nine
low dimensions for it will be low & wide di-
- mensions otherwise. When I get Agassiz' de-
- partment fully prepared I must be able to say
more exactly and not to know the subject is any
doubt, my only purpose is to draw your atten-
- tion and to ask you to bear it in mind what ex-
- tension you can well make without injury
to the results and to make me to avoid putting
stranded on the Rocks -

I wrote to Dr Torrey shortly after I sent
my letter to you but there as yet has been no
answer. I shall be glad if he will also hint
privately to us for plants as possible this is
the year upon - attending the publication.

The amount stated by you to be due
on your contract I find to be correct -

Believe me very respectfully
Yours truly
Asa Gray

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Washington City May 5th
1857.

My dear Sir,

Your note of the 1st May was duly received yesterday, although I am sorry to be informed of the delay that has occurred in relation to your papers, it ought not to surprise you when I tell you that it is justly your own fault by your having omitted the proper endorsements as you will perceive when they are returned by you. With respect to my own case you got the letter. The memorandum in pencil was sent you to show Secretary. I have the goodness to return them as quickly as possible. When they will be ordered to be printed and you will then have a copy in complete accordance to the instructions you require should be.

The Copy of Computation I have sent to surprise again and if it remains unpaid it will be forwarded to you by express. I am not aware that it has yet been touched since it came from you.

Although it may appear to you

that great delays are occurring in your department, as it has to others, yet it is not so, and in the conjunction that we united in the different departments after Mr Dwyer's death, it has been impossible to get along before all that has been already done is satisfied, and plans in order, and your plates have had attention, and attentions they require, I hope to pursue a better system hereafter, and to this end, I would ask you to put at once on the drawings the names and numbers of the plates, thereby much delays, and confusion would be avoided as well as prejudices to all parties, for when there are a thousand plates to give attention to, you may readily understand that little can be done without system - which ought to have been pursued from the first, and the whole de books as to require no dependence on the memory. I think I have attained this end, and for the purpose of promoting any confusion hereafter I desire to have your cooperation in marking the drawings before they leave your hands -

I am very respectfully
Your —
Charles Wilkes.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Washington City
7th May 1857.

My dear Sir.

I have attended to y[r] wishes with Lewis. I cannot convince him Lewis could have no instructions his orders as to him include your private property. My orders only embrace, that no impressions were to be taken from the plates without your permission & that those for the Govt were to be first struck off under my notice to the contrary.

I have no idea of interfering with any thing beyond this, and having given you permission to have your Copies printed I hope that nothing more may occur on my part. For there was nothing factious of Govt's interest in the business.

I wish now to know if any plates of Virginia are to be coloured, there are 4 of them coloured in the Original, there are more others. I suppose not, or you would have mentioned it ere this.

I have various matters, to correspond with you about relative to Indian

Curtis, Bailey, Ivory, & Sullivant, the last 2 have written to Letty. I did hope we should have had all his drawings & MSS. complete that they might have been Justin McEnery's own private property, he was so hoping to have them finished that I was appreciative the more I found him pushed up, but I find that he has not come up to his anticipated smartness, once that I am waiting for him to send the Materials to proceed with.

I should like to know when you were to meet at Cairn for Spain it is his opinion to communicate with you by letter and would find it much easier and more satisfactory to have a personal interview to settle all the matters which Spain it may be his opinion to manage. & when all the drawings or plates are which the MSS. of Bailey & Curtis call for. it would have saved me a great deal of labour and trouble to have had an interview with you sometime prior but things have turn'd in such a state of confusion owing to the fire which had occurred & Mr Drayton's death that I thought it better to get the back unwound before we came to the conclusion to advance with rapid strides again. Mr Shaw was accomplished & waits for the purpose of knowing when you will be at home that Ivory consult with you. by paying a few days in Cambridge. and at the same time have an opportunity of seeing Agassiz and Gould as well as Pickering. I do not know of it's Position to visit Worcester and how expensive or otherwise will render me to leave this City.

Before Bailey's death he wrote me that he thought his MSS. of Algae had better be sent to Harvey before it was published, as he was not then able to overlook it. Shaw has a copy made of it but has not sent it before Dr Jos for Harvey by letter it is to be necessary.

Since Ivory about Hackstaw Bill, he made the Bill payable to me instead of Shaw and having to appear the bill from me in apparent or otherwise. in Shaw, when Spain took charge of the burning Shaw this a race and have more depend upon from it. Mr. Drayton was able only to do it, and therefore you might from thought it was in my power to do so also. I had another objection which was that the Spain expended the beautiful drawings made by Sprague, and should not approve of them without satisfying myself or a certificate that they were worth the price above what we had paid for Sprague. Dr Ivory

Certificate merely want to note that the Drawings were made for the Dept. & obtained under him - The Government wish to purchase prints, but I cannot certify to their being so without a knowledge of the fact - or unless certificate of either you or Dr Torrey, that they are so - besides the rule which the Committee are adopting, is that the Drawings must be delivered before they are paid for - I shall be glad to hear from you at an early day -

Very respectfully Yours

Chas. Wilkes.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Zanesville Ohio
Sept 3rd 1857.

My dear Jo:

Your two letters of the 24th and 26th August were received; having been forwarded from Washington. Previous to the receipt of them I had seen an Illustrated Lieutenant who told me what I was glad to hear that he had kept his word & mentioned in Jones, and was writing to be printed by someone in Washington. I am pained to understand the situation of things, which Engraver was going to Jones connection with him. I had hoped to have fixed as early as September matters in Washington as the 11th by Sept. for it is not my intention to be connected upon the 15th: at least this is my present determination as which time or between then and the 1st of Oct. You may see me to find me. Do not dream it necessary for you to come home all I desire is to have the drawings for the Engraver which can as well be done by Express. As respects the contract for the Engraving that can be done two parties by it the Govt. and the Engraver. On the part of the Govt. I know of no objection to Mr Pelletreau's joining

for any alterations after they are put in the engravers hands. but no Drawings can be paid for until they are printed I hired this to you while in Boston I gave you forward the bill of Hoskins without sending the Drawings. I have nonetheless sent forward the Bill as I did not wish you to wait longer for the money paid Hoskins and presuming that the Drawings will be printed before the Bill is paid if not it will be necessary have to be returned me. till they are printed. One word more about this whole business. It is necessary that the Drawings and Engravings should be handed in finished before the Bills can be paid. this rule has been laid down by the Committee in the Library and cannot be departed from. and you will oblige me by following it closely if you desire to save yourself trouble as well as me.

I have written to Washington respecting the "doubtful States"

I have the return Jon Sullivan's note as requested. He is mistaken about his having been ready I have at home his Correspondence with Mr. Drayton I make no doubt the Drawing will be of great advantage to the work of the Ex. Ex.

The Committee as far as I have understood their views have always been willing to make Mr. Sullivan a fair compensation for his labours in preparing the Maps for Publication & Specimen are nice so they have been told by some of Sullivans friends that he desires no compensation for his labours, and his note to you is the first intimation I have had of it.

Very truly Your friend
Edward Everett.

By Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Washington City
Sept. 22nd 1857.

Dear Sir.

Your letter has been
forwarded from Columbus which will account
for its delay in reaching me
although it was in good time
as I could not have received it
at an earlier day.

I am pleased that you
are and feel sure you can
the conclusion that I have not
intended to make any imputa-
tion of impropriety on your part.
I would have told Secretary
that if he had been more explicit
I then say you for the tardiness
in the execution of his work. as

I did and if I should find time to turn round the good days are he gone we should have communed this spirit began it was extinguished - Charles forgotten when he wrote Drayton, and I do not intend to remind him of it - to let it pass - I have he glad to see you here with or without the drawings or they by themselves for I can see but little beyond the domain from your intercourse with the Engraver the pains he has taken between him and me and if sufficient or any dispute, engravings to be under with me - putting them up by his proofs it is even thus I shall be - The Engraver should continue and that is all I can attend to after that I have do anything to justify any Colourer for that may be in my power as I told him -

Believe me very truly
Yours
Charles Wilkins

Professor Henry,
Cambridge
May 6 -

Cambridge, Mass Sept. 24, 1854

To Capt. Wilkes, USN.

My dear Sir

I have this morning your favor of the 22nd inst: and am glad to hear of your return to Washington.

It would have been more satisfactory to me personally, if you had corroborated the hope I expressed that - whatever might be naturally inferred from the expressions of your last preceding letter, - you did not mean to say or imply that I had been remiss or irregular in the matter to which your letter referred. I am content however with having very distinctly rebutted such an implication, if made.

I am not desirous of visiting Washington at present unless it should be necessary, but I wish to avoid all delay on my part to having Mr. Sullivant's drawings taken in hand by the engraver.

I will therefore send the drawings at

over to Washington, if you will, on taking them into your possession, give me a receipt for their delivery, and the assurance to satisfy Mr. Sullivant that the facilities he wants in respect to early and prompt inspection of the proofs shall be afforded. The annexed from it seems to me would answer his purpose.

The drawings for one plate — in two pieces, and make-up, viz. of Plate X, is already in your hands, having been communicated by Mr. Sullivant on the 6th of March last.

Let me know by return mail, if you please, if this is satisfactory, and I will send the drawings, ~~instead of~~ coming on. Believe me to remain

Very ~~truly~~ respectfully Yours

A. Gray

Received of Asa Gray, ~~fifty~~ ~~twenty~~ six drawings of Mosses, with the make-ups, for twenty-six plates, — the property of Wm S. Sullivant, Esq. — of the estimated value of three hundred and twelve dollars, — to be engraved for the Botany of the Exploring Expedition; and proofs of each plate ~~shall be~~ or put on ground furnished to Mr. Sullivant by the Engraver ~~as fast the work is done~~, and made satisfactory to him.

— — — — —

Washington City
27 th Sept 1857

Dr Sir

There appears to be some misunderstanding on the part of Mr Sullivant and yourself relative to the drawings of the Mosquito Inlet the subject as it was originally is now, and ever must be.

Mr Sullivant voluntary agreed to draw up the description of the Mosquito Inlet Expedition & the Library Committee appointed believing him to be the person most qualified to give satisfaction in the description for publication: all the specimens were forwarded safe to him for this purpose. and he engaged to have the drawings made, and the description, when finished forwarded to the Committee, or this Agency at the anticipation after the completion of the work Mr Sullivant acted upon the part Committee of Library to make him what compensation they might judge his labours were worth. The drawings and description were to be forwarded at an early day.

It is unnecessary for me to go into the causes of the

delay which has taken place in this department of the botany. The Drawings have been from Mr Sullivant's letters now in the possession of Jones, and from some memoranda that they are the property of Mr Sullivant of an estimated value of three hundred dollars to be engraved for the botany of the Exploring Expedition.

This is no extraordinary request that I must first obtain before I have presented through your report of knowledge of the manner of doing business, and particularly the manner in which the Governmental business is executed.

I can never admit that Mr Sullivant has any right of property in the results of the Ex. Ex.; neither can I authorize to engage any thing which belongs to an individual or subject the Dept to expense.

The Specimens from which the drawings have been made belong to the Gov.t and the Com.r is authorizing these Agents to procure them in the manner for description touched as they have done in all other cases to this date of integrity when drawings have been prepared under these instructions or by a contract. Mr Sullivant's privilege was only limited by law. viz: to those which were new in the Department. it follows therefore that the drawings made belong to the Government until they declare to pay for them, which as yet has not been done, when the drawings are painted in with the titles approved by Mr Sullivant & reasonable and just they are ready to receive and pay for them. This is what I have endeavoured to make plain to both Jones & Mr Sullivant as well as others who are engaged in the work of the Ex: Ex. When the Drawings are returned to the engraver and this is done exclusively by the agency of the Jones written under this direction there is a contract and in this Contract is generally a reservation that such alterations as may be suggested should be made introduced to secure the correctness from the author of the text may suggest in examining the proof. In the Printing Contract as then agreed upon and style of work is the duty of the superintendent. This to be applied to the Engraver can will lead you to infer that Jones or Sullivant has any right of property in Mr Sullivant. nor can I sustain any right on his part to withhold them.

Since upon Jones the Com.r can receive to purpose them, as the Drawings being handed over and having the suitable vouchers as to their accuracy and memorable price endorsed on them.

I am not aware that Mr Sullivant or Jones have any cause to doubt the integrity of the Com.r in

of the Library in subjecting the undertaking or desire to carry out the agreement as voluntary offered to them by Mr Sullivant = One thing is quite certain that I should deem it quite derogatory to them as well as myself to allow any one to require an act at my hands that might lead to that imputation ensuing it in this light - I therefore decline giving any other pledge but what is usual and what will be given on this occasion -

Although I have made this remarks to you personally in conversation I have deemed it proper to put it in them as a subject for future reference -

With esteem, and respect

I am very truly

Yours &c

Charles Wilkes.

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Washington City
28th Sept. 1857

My dear Jo.

I transmit
herewith the Bill of Hostilities
duly entrusted to You, and
it is more pleasant to you
as Your order which I had in mind
that You could entrust
him it Justice to your agency
Hostilities had made it only
pleasant to you as you were
pleasure. I am glad we have
discovered this difficulty
I am invited to dine with
and they are beautifully ornamented.

Yours Truly
Charles Wilkes.

Copy

Cambridge, Massachusetts 29th. 1865

Dear Sir

I have received your letter of the 27th. inst; and I have to regret that my well-meant endeavours towards unravelling the obstacles in respect to Mr. Sullivan's drawings, &c. are not more successful.

The valuable drawings in question were placed in my hands by my friend Mr. Sullivan with the statement that they were at present his property, & that I have no objection to my so doing.

Whether Mr. Sullivan could with propriety use them for any other purpose than that for which they were designed, is a distinct question, upon which I have no occasion to enter. But I should suppose it unquestionable that these products of his own and his said artist's later and skill were his own property until he has made them over to the Library Committee for whom they were designed. In his letter to you, dated August 4th. ult. he expressly declined to part with them any faster than they were wanted by the engraver - in fearing as he states, that they, like those sent to [illegible] two or three of

which are still missing — might be lost or misplaced.

But, when being informed that you needed them all in order to contract properly for the engraving, Mr. Sullivant has, at my intercession, agreed to forward them all together through me, asking only that you shall give a receipt for them, and that you shall assure him that they shall be satisfactorily engraved, and arrange to have proofs sent to him by the engraver as fast as the engraving proceeds, in order that he may timely make such suggestions as may be needful or useful. This is so obviously for the benefit of the work, in the creditable character of which he feels so deep an interest — that it should not be necessary to make it a stipulation — is so obviously proper that in conversation with me I understood you to accede to the request — as indeed I should suppose you would be glad to submit the proofs to the early revision of one so well skilled in the matter, and so much interested in their faithful execution.

As I understand Mr. Sullivant to decline to part with the drawings without an assurance on your part that his desires in this respect shall be regarded, as he instructed me to consider the drawings as his property, placed in my hands until suitable arrangements are made about the engraving, and as you now, in your letter of the 27th. inst. explicitly decline to give a receipt recognizing Mr. Sullivants present rights of property in the drawings, and also, if I rightly understand you, object to affording assurance of an opportunity for timely submission of the proofs, I do not see that I can be of any further services in the premises

It would be a great pity if precious time should be lost, and the work arrested at this stage on any account, and especially on so narrow a difference as there really is between Mr. Sullivants views and your own. For while he claims the drawings to be his property, he is most willing they shall become the property of the Library Committee as soon as satisfactory arrangements are made about the engraving. Might it not be well, before returning the drawings to Mr. Sullivant, to take the sense of the Library Committee, or of its respected chairman, who possibly might not think Mr. Sullivants propositions altogether unreasonable?

Finally, as a personal matter, allow me, in all kindness, to say that I am pained to observe that the tone of parts of your last letter is not so agreeable as to render it desirable or pleasant for me to prolong this correspondence,

It becomes the more needful to mention this,

since on a recent occasion I was obliged to
vindicate myself against unjust and unwall-
ed-for implications, or what seemed to be such,
in your letter to me last but one preceding. I then
expressed the hope that you did not intend what
the letter appeared to imply; but in your answer
of the 22d inst I note that, while referring to the
matter, you did not see fit to disavow what
I complained of.

I have endeavored to render you such
little assistance as was in my power in
respect to drawings, Mss. and proofs, left in
some confusion by the late Mr. Drayton;
and I will cheerfully do so still, if occasion
serves, if you will be so good as to avoid
expressions liable to give offence and neither
required nor warranted by the occasion;—
when you may rely upon me to be always

with esteem and regard

Very truly Yours

A Gray

Washington City
2nd Oct. 1857.

My dear Sir

You know of this Expedition
The whole is in a Nutshell - Deliver
the Drawings and receive payment for
them and the business is at an end, the
property is then the Government -
Mr Rothrock has kindly as well as You
have been constantly aware that he never
knew any opposition by writing respecting
the proofs the same as You and others have
done and this is all. I have no occasion
to write upon the subject again. and therefore
with the assurance that I have never intended
to make any implications against You or any
One, and Your assistance in the Botanical Dept
has been gratefully acknowledged & appreciated. I have my public duties to perform &
endeavour to execute them in the most agreeable
manner - With regard & esteem

Yours,
Charles Wilkes.

Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge.

Washington City
Dec 20th 1857.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Dear Sir.

On my return here from Philadelphia I found your letter of the 13th - and also found the Package of the Drawings from McClellan - containing 25 - in all 26. one having been in my possession they will be put in hand shortly, owing to the delay in transmitting them I was obliged to give the Engravers other work which I was expected to do - They will be promptly taken in hand, and when the proofs are ready will be forwarded to Mr McClellan - When the Bill are forwarded I must the usual forms will be adhered to.

Dr Torrey has written me above 7 Drawings made in his department which he says are in your possession - until they are forwarded the Bill cannot be certified by him they cannot be paid. I refer him to this effect last week - Very respectfully

Yours truly
Charles Wilkes

Coventry Villa
5th Nov. 1857

My dear Sir.

It becomes necessary that I should again trouble you relative to Curtis's Genera of the Fungi, and as dilemma in the proofs sent you in August. Your last letter mentions letters & papers of the enquiries you have made of Mr Curtis. Mr Berkeley is aware of this having made the drawings, & the engravings (two) but for whom & for what purpose they were for, he never knew, and if he did, does not now recollect. You mention that Curtis No. 1. sent in your proposition, does not call for any plates. Would it not be well for you to enquire of Mr C. how many drawings were made, & what the plates were. I presume a proof impression has been sent him by Mr Brayton. When this has been completed, I shall then be able to have them finished with lettering &c. complete.

Will you have the kindness to give a few minutes attention to this. Yours very faithfully

Charles Peirce.

Prof. Gray
Cambridge

Washington City
28th Nov. 1857.

Prof. Asa Gray.
Cambridge

My dear Sir.

Your kind of 25th was duly received yesterday from my late absence from Washington. I have had little to do with the affairs of this Expedition in its minor details and am not aware that any serious difficulties have occurred or important delays as I have been for several years past. Mr. Draper is better, he is now very ill and I cannot just now write him on the subject as his physician has strictly directed every thing that may tend to distract his mind to be avoided. I have not seen Sullivant's drawings or

been aware of his having met any forward except two or three plates from time to time ago - and I do not suppose anything has been done with them.

Returning to the drawings being done on stone to save a little expense I do not think that it would be a consideration for the first edition they might answer but we all know that the lithographer, an inferior and I am sure an ignorant fellow would not like to see his work so justly placed side by side with yours on Copper. I am conscious of spending very money but at the same time we must recollect that it is a great work and on it the reputation of the Country at home and abroad is at stake, after this whole World has seen - pictures the question will not be a petty one such a work should have its mind for the saving of a few dollars.

Both you and Bellows must be aware of the same feelings when looking at the Geology and Natural history of this State of New York. In this respect known fact not to be gainsayed. I have always desired that the work should be done under Bellows own eye if possible, this was fixed in Upper Canada - I think there can be no objection to Mr. L. going to the ensuing winter and if not satisfactory to return - ed, this is to fix an epoch that it ought not to be delayed - I am well aware of Bellows disinterestedness from the first and although I have made me and the Commission aware of it I never will continue - pleased that he should be allowed to give his time and services without compensation his post can abundantly afford to do pecuniarily in the case.

As I made bogus Mr Dempster a visit to be consulted at present in the business but as soon as his Excellency has him upon - ed of the views of your feelings relative to the map, as well as the finishing &c, I shall

You must be fully aware how difficult it is to expunge from Acts and how much vexation and delay is undergone before any thing can be made to satisfy the taste and expectations of all who are interested. and where a Work of Invention is required.

I shall say from the better enquiries for Settlement to Jones and his M.S.S. and drawings here and how from it can be got before the Com.ee and then Engraving first at one or three as they may decide. Every thing this much that what was comes is pursuing Settlement. Shall be satisfied by having from as it came under his own eyes if I have any to say in the matter

Yours truly yours

Charles Wilkes.

Washington City
11. July 1858

My dear Sir,

I am glad to inform you that I have at last succeeded in finding the drawings of Mr. Curtis in a manner that may please you, have been found and I think Mr. Boyington has more attention - I have placed them all in a small box and shall this afternoon forward to you by Express today - I beg you will arrange them in two plates and those which are not drawn and letters be finished by Sturgis if he can, and the name upon with drawings for the Engraver sent to me - when they will be sent in hand immediately -

I hope to receive the drawings of Sturgis for you may - Allow, rapidly and beg you to bear in mind that we desire as finished as you can do with it.

Yours truly
Charles Eliot

Prof. Sears
Cambridge

Washington City
15th July. 1858.

To. Prof: Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.ts

Dear Sir.

I have not been able to write you respecting Sprague's drawings (& which were received in my absence) I hope on this he can succeed the money due for them - they are beautiful and compete with those of Hooker for Long, but I wish you could tell me how many more you will require keeping in view the last number you can do with, and when Sprague will finish them. which I suppose you can do approximately - Have you heard anything more of Mr Pluer? Mr Curtis prepared for him? We have had many troubles upon them, and examination of Mr Douglas's books & papers, for some hints - which you ascertain if they can be withdrawn, so that the pages of Mr Curtis may be made complete Douglas whom Mr C. thinks since then has lost all recollection of them & Mr Curtis also. I feel a good deal worried about them & have in mind to write that Mr Douglas may have

gives them out to some Engineer who has more
finished or returned them. I make however no
doubt the result of attempts it has become
somewhat desperate. In the meantime I would
like to know if they can be opened.

Yours truly
Charles Wilson

Washington City
15th February 1858.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge

My dear Sir

Your favour of the 11th was received yesterday, for which I am obliged to you. I am not aware what we wished to do in respect to the Publication of your Report of the work of the Ex. Ex. except that it could be wholly completed, but this at present cannot be done, this I was aware last spring when I wrote you asking for the estimate of your drawings and was induced to make some advance in the estimates by your limiting your remaining portion of Illustration, to a 2d. Atlas of two plates many of which had been engraved. By your last letter you now wish to change some what the arrangement and to discard some 17 plates already engraved & printed. By your letter it appears that you wished these 150. more plates. but how ever much we both wish it, I am afraid it cannot be done, and principally on account of the delays of Torrey & Sullivant in finishing and sending in their work. both drawings & Text — particularly the latter — it is so much uncertainly about the cost that the Commission decide not to touch

any thing until it is finished and the actual amount can be ascertained of the expenses to be incurred, & we shall only complete three vols. which are actually begun and in progress.

By the delay in sending or delivering sufficient plates has been one of the causes of this impediment and no other vol. of Botany can go to press until the whole of Sullivant's Fungi, MSS. and drawings are delivered over - Assuming to our estimate it will form has 450 pages, and in order to make the vol. of equal size it will be necessary for You to supply the rest of it - viz about 350 or 400 pages. This will give You with the vol. of text, (You already supplied viz) nearly 1200 pages under the present form of pages; it will not be departed from -

The Committee are of opinion that plates which have been engraved should be used unless they are found to be erroneous or not new, but they do not desire that they should be rejected unless this is the case, and it will make but little difference in the cost to the Institution thus.

In order now to expedite this 17th Vol, You would oblige me by laying out or arranging the Matter or MSS. that the may see and understand exactly what is to be done & when arranged to forward all that is required to be done to this that it may be put in hand - The Vol. 17. will contain. The Fungi & Hepaticæ, by Sullivant

N.W. coast Plants -	" Torrey -
Fungi - -	Curtis.
Algæ - -	Ruby
Lichens	Tuckerman

and such portion of Your own work as may be included. Vol. 18 - is reserved for Your Memoirs - - You will therefore see that quantity of MSS. and plates, may be given to Your part - I am extremely desirous to push this matter forward but there is such a disposition to delay on the part of Torrey & Sullivant that if these impediments in the way of progress which it is impossible to foresee and arrange for. I would therefore urge upon you to endeavour to expedite the drawings and the preparation of the MSS, and have it sent as soon as possible. None of it can go to press until it is all complete

By this time You will have received the Box containing Curtis Fungi and if You could get Sprague to make the drawings You may find some one else and if no one I think I may get them drawn here or in Philadelphia

I hope You will confine Sprague drawings to those which are absolutely necessary and dispense with, I am satisfied as much as I am, that he has been "plenty of proper subjects" but we want them

is of much consequence to the family to have us at the time to speak upon them.

Believe me

very truly & respectfully

Your

Charles Wilkes

Washington City
Feby 24. 1858.

My dear Sir,

I am much indebted to you for your letter of the 22nd in regards to writing relative to the publication we do not differ materially and I feel more desirous than you can be that the whole of all our collections in every branch of Science fully unbound and illustrated. But when we print, and must follow an diffgerent.

Had all the Botany been suspended at this time expected and particularly the Cryptogamia. then would have been no difficulty, but unfortunately with the hope of getting the drawings of Rich. & S. at the time that Vol. XV (Buckleys was in Rep.) it was impossible so that the Committee ordered Mr Drayton to close & bind it up, then it was not abound and is now a separate Vol. Your Vol: comes next - XVI. and now it is determined that Vol. XVII & XVIII is to contain the rest, and to whether you or not

is embraced in Vol. XVII or XVIII. it is immaterial. But as much as your 2nd Part had not been begun and the Cryptogamia including The Mosses, Lichens, Algæ & Fungi with Drays Pharmacogamia were in progress it has been decided to file up that Vol. with the supplies over your Vol. presumed to contain some 800 pages. I spoke to you in my former letter of the delays, and the determination of the Committee to draw the work of publication to a close and to limit the finishing to the drawings on hand & prepared. This they clung to and as it now stands I am directed to finish solely the parts now in hand before incurring new contracts. I have long since foreseen this, and have done all in my power to urge the parts if sufficient & Drays yet to be prepared or handed in. and until they are printed I dare apprehension that little changes can be made, and nothing can be undertaken as respects your work, except the actual preparation. Vol. XVII. was marked out to follow yours of XVI. and it is but very recently this has been changed. The delay is of great consequence but the funds is of greater and more pressing. The subject is fully understood. and my attention as well as that of the Committee is alive to the above subject, and all your remarks upon it have been long since thought of. The only thing I have to urge upon you is to complete all the preparation for your remaining portions with the Drawings by Sprague as soon as you can and stay you to endeavour to induce Sheldrick and Young to forward their MSS, complete & even written them perfectly but know we answer which does not speak of further delay, and this will be minimus as well to them as to You and the publication of the Botany.

I should have close my letter but there is one remark which I must reply to viz: in relation to the unfavourable reductions in Y. Dept. in answer to it I regret much that You should indulge in any feeling that full justice was not to be done Your Dept. at the same time you must be made aware that in conducting this publication neither the Committee or myself could be induced to do things anything that would militate against the great object which has been committed to our charge and which hitherto has been dealt with so liberally.

With great esteem
Yours Truly
Charles Wilkes.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge

Washington City
3rd Nov. 1858.

Surgeon Jr.

On my return to the City a few days since I received your letter with its enclosures and the drawings made by Mr Sprague which are come in good order. They are beautifully executed and have undergone a careful examination as to the labour and care devoted to them. Although the price of the four charged at $25 each is above what we have paid Sprague for any we have done yet considering the number of figures and the time and care expended upon them through the microscope I am satisfied the price has been well earned and is cheerfully awarded to him. I have only to regret the time

it requires him to make them and the distance to which I am obliged to look for the completion of your Department.

With respect to the beginning of the 2d Department, the Committee were desirous that those on hand finished before any more were contracted for. Those have now all been finished including Sullivant's, Bailey's, Young's, Tuckerman's Austin, only Tuckerman should desire to have some alterations in his plates, and I have written them to forward this R.S. that the Com. may go to Pays as early day - After these are disposed of and before the entrance of the new Com. I hope with the permission of the Committee to have all the drawings put in the hands of good engravers - This might be done. What title you with J. desire to have them previously, but as it will be for a short time after submitting them to the Committee with my annual report, there will be no difficulty in gratifying your wishes upon the subject the time may be by the 4th July is both easy and expeditious -

Mr Spencer has with in due course of time be approved and done. I should be obliged to you to inform me, if you can fix any time when Jones R.S. and Drawings will be ready for the Press and finished.

Respectfully yours &c
Charles Wilkes.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

P.S. I have you yet any returns from Harvey of Brinley Papers which you forwarded to him is it not time to receive them?

High Shoals. N. C.
March 30th 1873.

Prof. Asa Gray.
Cambridge Mass.

My dear Sir.

Mr. Stuart has forwarded me your letter of the 24th inst. I sincerely condole with you in the loss you and friend Dr. Torrey: who eminent services in the cause of Science will cause him to be enrolled among the most distinguished of those who devoted his life to the honor and advantage of his country, and whose worth will long remain among those who have journeyed with the mercy & addons throughout this life.

I am instructed to accept your generous proposal in undertaking the arduous

of seeing his work through the press and to express the high appreciation they have in your voluntary accepting the task and that you will act as in your judgement as will comport with the high standing of its distinguish author.

I notice what you say relative to some changes in the MS. S. and adopting other synonyms that have been given and published since his MS. came into your hand. Are you aware that the Vol. will bear the date of 1861. when it was reported ready and could have gone to press if our unlucky rebellion had not unexpectedly put a stop to the printing. I presume such synonyms have been given subsequently, and that Dr Torrey is entitled to the naming and description and it appears but justice to him that they should be retained. and a note at the foot of the page appended if necessary. The Committee are desirous that every thing should appear consistent with his labours and nothing omitted that could in any way detract from his labours and investigations, but they rely upon your good judgement, and are fully confident you will do us and friend justice in any corrections you may think to make. They wish me also to express to you that the printing of the Vol should conform as nearly as possible to those on Botany already published in type and style.

Mr Stuart will be instructed to afford you all the necessary aid in the transmission of proofs &c.

Accept my kind regards and believe me very respectfully

Yours

Charles Wilkes.

High Woods 9th June
1774

Mr Thos Gray
Cambridge Massr
My dear Sir.

Your note of the
6th was received yesterday. Your
comment with the Comrs of the Navy
has been long since laid before them
but it was misunderstood and they
ought not to be any misunderstanding
about it. I understand they have
paid Sherman for his printing but
I am not aware whether the letters
which were inclosed were sent. Sher-
man not yet returned to Town whither I
at once forwarded to the Comrs but
have had no communication with
them. I cannot understand the
reason they are loitering relative to the

The work is to be printed by Mr Sherman & not Mr Green as mentioned, Jennie
Stanley has my power to have your claim settled but I do not think it
worth while to attend to it myself. Mr Sherman is entirely out of place
& has been for some time. Do not fail to
write me frequently
Yours sincerely with
best wishes
Thos Gray —
Thomas Wilkes.

publication. My Vol. on Physics the
2d Vol has been stopped about 1/3 print-
ed Mr Stuart has been discharged
and I suppose from your letter you
are to have some trouble in carrying
out your agreement made with me
as their Agent. I have expressed to
them my opinion very freely, but
the Chairman F.C. Howe Secretary &
Treasurer seem to control the pay-
ment of Moneys due and my Agency
or part as the work has gone has been
dropped or ceased to be acted upon
He has written me as long as I continue
to hold the attitude &c. the work can-
not go on, without letting me know
what attitude I have assumed, I can-
not imagine unless it is that the Money
due by the employees shall be paid.
& I have thus been treated & whether